

Appl. No.: 09/722,177  
Amendment Dated May 2, 2006  
Reply to Office Action dated February 2, 2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Amended) A postage metering system, comprising:  
a computer;  
an authentication unit in operative communication with the computer;  
a printer in operative communication with the computer, the printer including an  
unsecure print head and a secure print head; and  
a control system in operative communication with the computer, the authentication  
unit and the printer, the control system for:  
executing a transaction session between the computer and the authentication  
unit to generate postal data to be included in a postal indicium, the  
postal indicium including non-authorization data;  
initiating a print request to print the postal indicium; and  
controlling the unsecure print head to print the non-authorization data and the  
secure print head to print forensic evidence of the authenticity of the  
postal indicia, the forensic evidence being generated by the postage  
metering system.
2. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:  
the postal indicium further includes authorization data; and  
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.

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3. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 2, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is  
generated by the secure print head.
4. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 3, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and  
the authentication unit; and  
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is  
unsuccessful.
5. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:  
the postal indicium further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print  
head; and  
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is a unique print pattern.
6. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 5, wherein:  
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the postal indicium.
7. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 6, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is  
generated by the secure print head.

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8. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 7, wherein:  
the control system is further for:
  - initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and  
the authentication unit; and
  - preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is  
unsuccessful.
9. (Previously Amended) A method of operating a postage metering system to print a  
postal indicium having non-authorization data, the method comprising the step(s) of:
  - executing a transaction session between a computer and an authentication unit to  
generate postal data to be included in the postal indicium;
  - transmitting a print request to a printer to print the postal indicium, the printer  
including an unsecure print head and a secure print head;
  - printing the non-authorization data with the unsecure print head; and
  - printing forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia with the secure print  
head, the forensic evidence being generated by the postage metering system.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:
  - the postal indicium further includes authorization data; and
  - the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step(s) of:
  - preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is  
generated by the secure print head.

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12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step(s) of:  
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the  
authentication unit; and  
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is  
unsuccessful.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:  
the postal indicium further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print  
head; and  
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is a unique print pattern.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein:  
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the postal indicium.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step(s) of:  
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is  
generated by the secure print head.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step(s) of:  
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the  
authentication unit; and  
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is  
unsuccessful.
17. (Currently Amended) A document printing system, comprising:  
a computer;  
an authentication unit in operative communication with the computer;

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a printer in operative communication with the computer, the printer including an unsecure print head and a secure print head; and  
a control system in operative communication with the computer, the authentication unit and the printer, the control system for:  
executing a transaction session between the computer and the authentication unit to generate document data to be included in a document, the document data including content data;  
initiating a print request to print the document; and  
controlling the unsecure print head to print the content data and the secure print head to print forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document, the forensic evidence being generated by the ~~postage metering~~ document printing system.

18. (Original) The document printing system of claim 17, wherein:  
the document data further includes authorization data; and  
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is the authorization data.
19. (Previously presented) The document printing system of claim 18, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is generated by the secure print head.
20. (Previously presented) The document printing system of claim 19, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the authentication unit; and  
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.

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21. (Original) The document printing system of claim 17, wherein:  
the document data further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print head; and  
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is a unique print pattern.
22. (Original) The document printing system of claim 21, wherein:  
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the document.
23. (Previously presented) The document printing system of claim 22, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is generated by the secure print head.
24. (Previously presented) The document printing system of claim 23, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the authentication unit; and  
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.
25. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a document printing system to print a document having non-authorization data, the method comprising the step(s) of:  
executing a transaction session between a computer and an authentication unit to generate document data to be included in a document, the document data including content data;  
transmitting a print request to a printer to print the document, the printer including an unsecure print head and a secure print head;

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printing the content data with the unsecure print head; and  
printing forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia with the secure print head, the forensic evidence being generated by the ~~postage metering~~  
document printing system.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:  
the document further includes authorization data; and  
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.
27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:  
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is  
generated by the secure print head.
28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step(s) of:  
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the  
authentication unit; and  
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is  
unsuccessful.
29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:  
the document further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print head;  
and  
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is a unique print pattern.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein:  
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the document.

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31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step(s) of:  
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is  
generated by the secure print head.
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step(s) of:  
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the  
authentication unit; and  
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is  
unsuccessful.